

**We Claim:**

1. A method for interfacing a directory to an application in a computing system, the method comprising the steps of:
  - providing a transformation profile for defining a predetermined format for use by the application;
  - detecting an event in the directory;
  - transforming the event to the predetermined format by using a transformation tool and the transformation profile; and
  - providing the transformed event to the application;

whereby the application becomes aware of the event by having the event provided to the application in a transformed state.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

converting the event to a generic data description before transforming the event.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing an application shim for the application to receive the transformed event and provide the event to the application by using a native application program interface for the application.
4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:

updating the application shim and the transformation profile responsive to changes in the application.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the transformation profile includes a stylesheet.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the transformation profile is stored in the  
2 directory.

1 7. A software program for facilitating the use of a distributed directory running  
2 in a computer network, the program comprising being stored on a recordable medium  
3 and including instructions for:

4 receiving an event from the distributed directory into an XML generator;  
5 converting the event into XML data;

6 transforming the XML data to a first predetermined format by a  
7 transformation processor, the first predetermined format being responsive to an  
8 application running in the computer network; and

9 transmitting the transformed data to the application.

10 8. The software program of claim 7 wherein the transformation processor  
11 includes an XSLT processor, the program further comprising instructions for:  
12 providing a stylesheet to the XSLT processor, the stylesheet including  
13 formatting instructions for transforming XML data to the first predetermined  
14 format.

15 9. The software program of claim 8 further comprising instructions for:  
16 receiving updates to the stylesheet responsive to any changes in either the  
17 distributed directory or the application.

18 10. The software program of claim 7 wherein the transformed data is transmitted  
19 to the application through an application shim to provide the transformed data to the  
20 application by using a native application program interface for the application.

1 11. The software program of claim 7 further comprising instructions for:  
2 detecting the event through notification from an event handler of the  
3 distributed directory.

1 12. The software program of claim 7 further comprising instructions for:  
2 receiving a second event from the application,  
3 converting the second event into XML data;  
4 transforming the XML data to a second predetermined format by the  
5 transformation processor, the second predetermined format being responsive to the  
6 distributed directory; and  
7 transmitting the data transformed according to the second predetermined  
8 format to the distributed directory.

1 13. The software program of claim 12 wherein the transformation processor  
2 includes an XSLT processor, the program further comprising instructions for:  
3 providing a first stylesheet to the XSLT processor, the first stylesheet  
4 including formatting instructions for transforming XML data to the first  
5 predetermined format;  
6 providing a second stylesheet to the XSLT processor, the second stylesheet  
7 including formatting instructions for transforming XML data to the second  
8 predetermined format.

1 14. The software program of claim 12 wherein the transformed data is transmitted  
2 from the application through an application shim.

1 15. A software program for facilitating the use of a distributed directory running  
2 in a computer network, the program comprising instructions for:  
3 receiving an event from the application;  
4 transforming the event to a predetermined format by a transformation  
5 processor, the predetermined format being responsive to the distributed directory;  
6 and  
7 transmitting the transformed event to the distributed directory.

1 16. The software program of claim 15 further comprising instructions for:  
2 converting the event into markup language data prior to transforming the  
3 event.

1 17. The software program of claim 15 further comprising instructions for:  
2 providing a transformation profile to the transformation processor, the  
3 transformation profile including formatting instructions for transforming the  
4 markup language data to the predetermined format.

1 18. A distributed computer system comprising:  
2 a first processor connected to a network for executing computer code;  
3 a second processor connected to the network for executing computer code;  
4 a first memory connected to the first processor;  
5 a second memory connected to the second processor;  
6 a distributed directory, a portion of which being stored in the first memory;  
7 an application, a portion of which being stored in the second memory;  
8 a transformation profile for defining a predetermined format for use by the  
9 application;

10 software for detecting an event in the distributed directory;  
11 software for transforming the event to the predetermined format by using a  
12 generic transformation tool and the transformation profile; and  
13 software for providing the transformed event to the application;  
14 whereby the application becomes aware of the event by having the event  
15 provided to the application in a transformed state.

16 19. The system of claim 18 further comprising:

17 software for converting the event to a generic data description before  
18 transforming the event.

19 20. The system of claim 18 further comprising:

20 an application shim for the application to receive the transformed event and  
21 provide the event to the application by using a native application program interface  
22 for the application.

23 21. The system of claim 18 further comprising:

24 a second transformation profile for defining a second predetermined format for  
25 use by the distributed directory;

1 software for transforming an application event to the second predetermined  
2 format by using the generic transformation tool and the second transformation  
3 profile; and

4 software for providing the transformed application event to the distributed  
5 directory;

6 whereby the distributed directory becomes aware of the application event by  
7 having the application event provided to the distributed directory in a transformed  
8 state.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the generic transformation tool utilizes a  
2 markup language and the software for transforming the event and the application  
3 event utilizes a transformation processor.

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